

REMARKS

This communication responds to the Office Action mailed on February 23, 2006. Claims 4-5, 7, 9, 12, 15, and 19-20 are amended; and claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 14, 18, 21-23 and 28 are canceled. As a result, claims 4-9, 12-13, 15, 19-20, and 24-27 are now pending in this Application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 14, 18, 21-23 and 28 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manjikian et al. (ACM, pp. 76-84 (1993)) in view of Pedersen (U.S. 5,787,009). Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 14, 18, 21-23 and 28 were canceled by way of the amendments noted above, rendering this rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 24-27 were allowed. Claims 4-9, 12, 13, 15, 19 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claims 4-5, 7, 9, 12, 15, and 19-20 have been amended in this manner, and not for reasons related to patentability, all pending claims should be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

The Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicant's attorney, Mark Muller at (210) 308-5677 to facilitate the prosecution of this Application. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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